



# Tempe Art in Private Development

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## South Mountain Commerce Center

2420 W. Baseline Road

**Joe Tyler**

*Spire & Social Oasis, 2006*

Naturally rusted steel

Artist website:  
[www.Artistic-Vision.com](http://www.Artistic-Vision.com)

Photo: Craig Smith

**Description:** This piece is a social oasis – a welded steel obelisk that gives the corporate center a sense of place. A shaded seating area for employees to get fresh air, socialize, eat lunch, or wait for a ride is located at the rear of the building. A spire is located in the front of the building. The artist worked closely with the owner and its architects to capture their visions of an entry statement at the front of the corporate center and a social oasis at the rear of the building.

**Artist biography:** Joe Tyler received his bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Arizona State University, followed by his Masters of Environmental Horticulture in 1972. After years of owning a nursery and serving as the Founding Director of the Arboretum at ASU, Tyler's artistic talents revealed a new profession. Since the 1990s, he has been creating primarily large-scale sculptures of welded steel, often incorporating materials including wood, masonry, and glass. Much of Tyler's work has a strong botanical influence due to his background in, and passion for horticulture and the Sonoran Desert. Because he strives to incorporate a site's environment, culture and history, his artwork often looks as though it has been in place for a long time. Tyler's residential, public, and art in private development works can be seen in cities across the Southwest, as well as Germany and Japan.

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